(b) whether these agreements cover the infrastructural development programmes, like power generation, roads, building and water supply schemes; and

(c) the details of the impact on our current economic restructuring activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Agreement on Tourism Co-operation signed with Italy on 26 June, 2000 commits the two countries to measures for promoting exchanges in the field of tourism, including between their official tourism organisations. It envisages co-operation with regard to tourism promotion and publicity, the simplification of formalities required for travel and exchange of information on tourism industry and tourism development projects. A Working Group will be established for the implementation of the Agreement.

The Agreement on Investment Promotion and Protection with Portugal signed on 28 June 2000 requires each country to encourage and create favourable conditions for investors and admission of investments. The core of the Agreement lies in its positive assertion of the Principle of Most favoured Nation and National Treatment.

(b) and (c) The Agreement on Tourism Co-operation with Italy commits the two countries to exploring the possibilities of joint ventures in their respective tourism sectors. The Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with Portugal is expected to encourage foreign investments, including in areas of infrastruture development. The two Agreements will contribute to the objectives of economic growth and development. They would, however, have no direct impact with regard to economic re-structuring activities.

Linking of signing CTBT and lifting of technology blockade

547. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Western countries are linking Government decision on signing of CTBT while considering lifting of Western technology blockade; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) No Sir. In our biltateral dialogues with key interlocutors, the Government is seeking, not through a process of linkage, but through the process of developing a better understanding of India's concerns and policies of restraint, the removal of restrictive measures.

Government's policy on Sri Lankan issue

548. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the policy of Government in dealing with the Sri Lankan issue;

(b) what were the proposals forwarded by Government of Sri Lanka; and

(c) whether Government have taken an international initiative to make our stand convincible over the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Government of India has consistently adhered to a policy involving a three-fold commitment:

(a) to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka;

(b) to the restoration of lasting peace in Sri Lanka;

(c) to a peaceful, political process being the only means of achieving a lasting peace, through a negotiated settlement which would meet the aspiration of all communities.

(b) The Sri Lankan Government has not forwarded any proposals to the Government of India.

(c) No, Sir, the Government of India's stand is appreciated and shared by the international community.